

tend the child and supply the medicine. How few millionaires would give a fourth of their incomes for the services of the physician? If the young doctor would attend the workingman and supply the medicine for a reasonable fee the medical journals would soon cease to be filled with long letters complaining of the "Abuse of Hospitals," "The Dispensary Nuisance," "Counter-Precribing," and "Patent Nostrums."

WESTERN HOSPITAL.

Although the Western Hospital is an institution entirely separate from Bishop's College, yet, the welfare of the one, is very much wrapped up in the success of the other. Owing to the good work being done at this Hospital, it is rapidly rising in favor with the public, who have hastened to contribute towards its funds a fair share of their benevolence. During the past six months every bed has been occupied and sometimes as many as five operations (some of them major ones) have been performed in one day. Owing to its distance from the center of the city, it has been found advisable in the interests of students and visiting practitioners to devote one day in the week to this purpose; consequently, Saturday has been chosen, the operations beginning at 12 sharp and continuing until 2 or 3 p. m. or even longer if necessary. It, also, has the advantage for the patients in that the wards are free from the odor of anæsthetics and from the other inconveniences necessarily attendant upon an operation during the other six days in the week. Among the operations performed during the last three months may be noticed laparotomy for tubal pregnancy, for pus tubes and for pelvic peritonitis, for ovarian cysts, for the radical cure of umbilical hernia, as well as exploratory sections for obscure abdominal tumors. Among the lesser operations have been several Alexanders, a great many trachelorrhaphies, anterior and posterior colporrhaphies, lacerated perineums, recto-vaginal fistula and several total-extir-

pations of the breast and axillary glands including the removal of the pectoral muscles. We are glad to learn that several bequests have been promised which, when realized, will enable the authorities to build a wing for the mid-wifery department. During the summer session of Bishop's College, from the 1st of April to the 1st of July, demonstrations will be given almost daily at this institution. The Western Hospital, like Bishop's College, seems to have passed through its period of struggling, and is now established on a very satisfactory basis. More beds, however, are required, as there is hardly a day in which two or three patients are not turned away.

CONTAGIOUSNESS OF CONSUMPTION.

It is with considerable satisfaction that we read the report in the *Medical News* (Feb. 6, '92) of the meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine which was devoted to the discussion of the contagiousness of phthisis. Only three years ago the writer was ridiculed for expressing the opinion that the disease is contagious, and was told by a leading physician that it was a fad, and by another that he had it on the brain. And yet any one would have come to the same conclusion as the writer, who could have examined the same array of facts with an unbiased mind. Bias is the great impediment to clear intellectual vision and blocks us many a time from arriving directly at the truth. In the case of consumption we were biased by the legend of heredity so much that we were blinded to the daily facts which prove its contagiousness, while we made the most frantic efforts to explain its spread by heredity. The heredity theory has been so thoroughly exploded by recent investigation that we hardly need repeat their arguments now, although our readers will find ample proof of its contagiousness and transmission without heredity in another part of this